

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01276 041119Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /075 W  
-----041121Z 071551 /23

O R 041000Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0030  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
USUISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0421  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL GABORONE 1276

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH  
SUBJECT: REPORTED RHODESIAN ATTACK ON BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA

REF: GABORONE 1257

1. ACCORDING TO UK HICOM FIRST SECRETARY RAFTERY, WHO HAD  
A CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY TO CABINET STEENKAMP EVENING OF JUNE 3,  
THE REPORTED RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCE ATTACK ON BOTSWANA WAS A MINOR  
AFFAIR, INVOLVING A BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE (BDF) UNIT OF TEN  
SOLDIERS.

2. STEENKAMP TOLD RAFTERY THAT, OWING TO DARKNESS AND THE ABSENCE OF  
CASUALTIES, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE FORCE  
WHICH CAME OVER THE BORDER. WHAT CONCERNED THE GOB MAINLY WAS THE  
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PAGE 02 GABORO 01276 041119Z

REPORTED BUILD UP OF RHODESIAN AIRBORNE FORCES NEAR THE PLUM TREE  
AIRPORT, ALLUDED TO IN THE JUNE 3 PRESS STATEMENT (SEE REF). WITH  
THE RECENT SERIOUS RHODESIAN ATTACK INTO MOZAMBIQUE, THE POSSIBILITY  
OF AN AIRBORNE RAID ON THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN BOTSWANA COULD NOT  
BE EXCLUDED.

3. ACCORDING TO RAFTERY, BOTH BDF COMMANDER MERAFHE AND BRIGIDIER

KHAMA ARE IN THE NORTH AND THE FORCES THERE ARE IN THE READY STAGE OF  
A GENERAL ALERT.

4. COMMENT: IT IS REVEALING THAT, BY IMPLICATION, A CABINET  
LEVEL OFFICIAL DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ATTACKING  
FORCE WAS A ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALIST GROUP. ALTHOUGH THE GOB STILL  
HOLDS, AS ANNOUNCED IN THE STATEMENT, THAT THE ATTACKERS BELONGED  
TO THE SECURITY FORCES, THE STATE OF MIND IN THE GOB IS  
SUCH THAT ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS CAN'T  
BE EXCLUDED FROM SUSPICION AND THE STATE OF DEFENSES IS SUCH THAT  
THE BDF IS UNABLE TO TAKE MEASURES NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY THE  
ATTACKERS.  
NORLAND

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 04-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GABORO01276  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 GABORONE 1257  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 2278690  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED RHODESIAN ATTACK ON BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BC, RH  
**To:** STATE LUSAKA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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